Mr. Alan Fitzgibbon
P.O.Box 34071
Bethesda, Md. 20817

9/1/84

Dear Alan,

Jim Lesar has sent me copies of your 8/24 to him and your 8/22 to Page Miller.

I agree entirely with what you say about the importance of and interest in the CIA's foreign operations in graf 2 of your letter to Jim, but I suggest that there is still considerable interest in its domestic operations, particularly dirty ones, and that exposure of these might have more impact on the Congress.

On the second page of your other letter, 2d full graf, you wonder about why security markings were deleted. Two purposes are served, if not more. One is that if a classified document is disclosed it must first be declassified, and that required deleting security markings. Another purpose serves the requesters' interests. They cannot be charged with improper possession of a classified record if the classification is ended.

I'm not familiar with the CIA's Sims brief (page 3, 2d full graf), but it seems to me that if you know that someone was an informant, it is not confidential and has been disclosed and therefore is not within any exemption. If they haven't, I'd guess that they invoke another provision, protection of information provided by that source only.

Best wishes,

Harold Weisberg